



Pacific Engagement Visa for Employers

Pacific Engagement Visa overview

The Pacific Engagement (subclass 192) visa is a new permanent residence visa program for eligible citizens of participating Pacific countries and Timor-Leste. The Australian Government will make available up to 3,000 visas each year, which includes selected participants from the ballot and their immediate family members.

Getting a Pacific Engagement Visa is a two-step process:

1. Prospective applicants must first **register in the Pacific Engagement Visa ballot**.
2. Participants who are randomly selected from the ballot will be notified by the Department of Home Affairs and invited to apply for the visa. Following selection, applicants will be in the market for a job. Before being granted a visa, applicants must demonstrate they meet all relevant criteria, including having a formal ongoing job offer.

MAX Solutions' role in the Pacific Engagement Visa Support Service

MAX Solutions (MAX) delivers employment, health, disability and training services to jobseekers and employer partners in metro, suburban and regional areas across Australia.

MAX is part of a consortium led by Icon Agency (ICON), which has been contracted by the Australian Government to:

- raise awareness of the Pacific Engagement Visa in participating countries
- assist Pacific Engagement Visa applicants find suitable job opportunities to help them meet the visa requirement
- help visa holders prepare for arrival in Australia.

MAX is the employment support service for the program. For those who choose to use our services we will provide access to job opportunities and preparation for employment in Australia.

MAX will be supported by local experts engaged in participating countries to deliver in-country support services.

Matching Pacific Engagement Visa applicants to employers

People selected in the Pacific Engagement Visa ballot will have access to support staff in their country for guidance on applying for jobs in Australia.

Support staff will help any interested Pacific Engagement Visa applicants connect with MAX and employers in Australia.

MAX has tailored its existing recruit-to-employment model, currently used in Australia, to the Pacific Engagement Visa program. We will focus on pre-employment preparation and connections to employers.

MAX will be the liaison between support staff, people selected in the Pacific Engagement Visa ballot and employers.

Countries participating in the Pacific Engagement Visa program in 2024

- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Nauru
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu



PEV and PALM visas comparison

The PEV will complement the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme by offering a permanent residence visa to nationals of Pacific countries and Timor-Leste.

Although both visas seek to deepen connections with the region, there are important differences:

Comparison	PEV	PALM
Visa type	Subclass 192 (permanent residence visa)	Subclass 403 Temporary Work (International Relations) visa
Length of stay in Australia	Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term: up to 9 months Long-term: 1-4 years
Number of visas available	Up to 3,000 per year, inclusive of partners and children	Demand driven
Skill level	Any skill level	Unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled
Relocation costs	PEV holder responsible for all costs associated with moving to and settling in Australia.	PALM scheme workers fund passport and health checks. PALM scheme employer funds initial worker mobilisation costs (for example, visa and flights) which they may recoup from workers through deductions from wages, less a \$300 employer contribution.
Pre-departure support	Support to connect applicants with Australian employers and general advice on visa application processes. Pre-departure briefings to provide culturally relevant information in language about life in Australia.	Labour sending units develop work-ready pools to support recruitment by Australian employers and deliver pre-departure briefings to provide culturally relevant information in language about employment and life in Australia.
Arrival support	Settlement support, including through the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program. Participants have access to the same benefits as all permanent visa holders, such as Medicare, Child Care Subsidy, access to public schools and university places, and additional supports to assist with the cost of education, training and raising a family, such as VET and HELP student loans.	PALM scheme employer responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing an arrival briefing meeting accommodation standards providing sufficient hours of work the wellbeing of workers, including supporting connections to community and sporting groups, churches and diaspora groups. PALM scheme workers receive ongoing support from their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PALM scheme employers PALM scheme support service line Country Liaison Officers / Labour Attachés.

Your obligations and requirements as an employer

Employers may wish to offer support, but it is not a requirement. Unlike the PALM scheme, the PEV is not an employer sponsored visa.

To apply for the PEV, eligible applicants must submit a written offer of ongoing employment for a genuine position available in Australia.

PEV holders are entitled to the same conditions as Australians doing the same work.

Get involved with the Pacific Engagement Visa

Contact MAX at: employment@pevsupport.com.au

Please provide job briefs, including your current recruitment process and pre-employment requirements.

We will set up a meeting to discuss suitable employment opportunities.